

Remarks

Claims 6-11, 14-20, 22-28, 30-39, and 41-45 remain in the application.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 29, 31, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over JP 09-041135 A (hereafter JP '135) in view of JP 10-152774 (hereafter JP '774). Claim 29 has been canceled, and Claims 31 and 37 have been amended to depend from an allowed claim.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 30, 32-36, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over JP '135 in view of JP '774 and further in view of U.S. Patent 7,723,367 to Wada. These claims have been amended to depend from an allowed claim.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 40, 41, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over JP '135 in view of JP '774 and Wada. Claim 40 has been canceled, and Claims 41 and 43 have been amended to depend from an allowed claim.

The Examiner has allowed Claims 6-11 and 14-28. An obvious spelling error has been corrected in Claim 6. A new Claim 44 specifying the small size of the magnetron depends from allowed Claim 21, and the remaining dependent claims in the set have been amended to depend from Claim 44. A new Claim 45 depending from Claim 44 specifies a tantalum target. The Examiner also indicates that Claims 38 and 42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. They have been so rewritten.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be helpful, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number, which is on California time.

Date: 18 December 2003

Correspondence Address

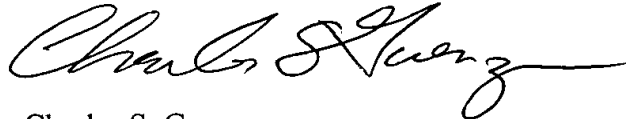
Patent/Legal Dept.; M/S 2061

Applied Materials, Inc.

P.O. Box 450A

Santa Clara, CA 95052

Respectfully submitted,



Charles S. Guenzer

Registration No. 30,640

(650) 566-8040